

Indiana House of Representatives

News and Information

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LAWSON BILL TO REQUIRE DNA SAMPLES FROM FELONS PASSED BY HOUSE

INDIANAPOLIS -- House Bill 1241, legislation coauthored by State Rep. Linda Lawson (D-Hammond) that would require convicted felons to provide a DNA sample to the Department of Correction (DOC) or a sheriff, passed out of the House today by a vote of 96 - 0.

Anyone convicted of a felony, conspiracy to commit a felony, or attempt to commit a felony will have to turn in a DNA sample.

The samples will be paid for through a processing fund, which will be created by House Bill 1241. However, for some criminal, infraction and ordinance violation actions, a \$1 fee for the DNA sample processing fee will be imposed.

All samples will be collected and preserved in a DNA database program.

When the law takes effect in 2006, there will be 10,876 felony offenders in the system who will need to have DNA collected and an additional 26,200 new offenders will be expected to enter the system each year.

"By enlarging the pool of DNA in the state database, the police will be able to work faster and more accurately," said Lawson. "This is just one way in which we can help the law enforcement officers of Indiana work more effectively."

House Bill 1241 now moves to the Senate for further consideration.